

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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71

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 IO-13 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

DRC-01 /101 W

----- 061086

R 111443Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8598

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL PRETORIA 3256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, SF

SUBJ: PROPOSED ATTACHE CORPS VISIT TO CAPRIVI STRIP

REF: PRETORIA 3240

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR SIR JAMES BOTTOMLEY INFORMED CHARGE SEPT 11 OF RESULTS FURTHER IN-HOUSE CONSIDERATION THIS SUBJECT. BOTTOMLEY SAID HE WAS STILL OF VIEW THAT OUR CONCERN WAS SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED BUT THAT LONDON SEEMED "SYMPATHETIC" TO OUR PROBLEM. SINCE NEITHER US NOR UK ATTACHES HAVE YET RECEIVED FIRM INDICATIONS OF DATES FOR PROPOSED ATTACHE TRIP, BOTTOMLEY SAID HE PROPOSES RECOMMEND TO LONDON A POLICY OF "WAIT AND SEE", I.E., TO RESERVE DECISION ON ACCEPTING INVITATION UNTIL THEY ARE CERTAIN THAT PROPOSAL IS STILL A LIVE ONE AND THEY HAVE FIRM DATES IN HAND. HE WILL ADVISE US WHEN RESPONSE FROM LONDON IS RECEIVED.

2. COMMENT: FURTHER EXPLORATION BY ARMA HAS REVEALED THAT HIS BRITISH COLLEAGUE'S VIEW THAT SAG APPEARED TO BE "STALLING" ON TRIP IS BASED ONLY ON HUNCH. IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE THAT TRIP COULD BE SCRUBBED OR POSTPONED, BUT ARMA BELIEVES IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT INITIAL APPROACH WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE TO FOREIGN ATTACHES IF APPROVAL HAD NOT ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED AT HIGHEST LEVELS SAG MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

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SMITH

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NNN

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